GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3440
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
EFFECTS OF MISSILE TESTS ON ENDANGERED SPECIES
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that continuing missile tests including that of Agni-II from the Wheeler Island near Gahirmatha in Orissa has scared away the turtles in their breeding season and has posed a threat for extinction of the endangered species as reported in the `Ãndian Express` dated February 3, 2002;

(b) if so, the details and facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the threatened species from such tests?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a)&(b) No scientific evidence regarding adverse impact of testing the Agni-II missile on turtle population has come to the notice of the Central Government.

(c) Therefore no action needs to be taken in this regard at this stage.